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THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

A dispatch from Washington to the Philadelphia Inquirer, under date of yesterday, claims that Gen. Lee is retreating to the North Anna River, and that the Federal army, which it is said, now occupies Guinea's Station and Bowling Green, is again on the march to Richmond.

The Confederate attack on the right flank of Grant's army, on the night of Thursday, was quite a spirited affair. The wagon trains, succeeded in escaping capture, part of them getting safely within the Federal lines, and the remainder being hurried back to Fredericksburg. The Federal loss in the engagement that ensued is estimated at about a thousand men. One hundred Confederates, it is reported, were taken prisoners.

The correspondent of the New York Tribune writes that, on Wednesday last, the Confederates were throwing up breastworks in front of the position to which Butler retreated on Monday last. A battery was also in course of construction on a bluff on the opposite side of the James River, which threatened to prove "a great annoyance." The Federal gunboats endeavored, by constant shelling, to prevent the Confederates from going on with the work, but without effect.

A dispatch from Washington announces that the Richmond papers of the 19th claim a victory over Sigel in the Shenandoah Valley. They state that Sigel was driven twenty miles without stopping, and that he abandoned his hospitals and burned his trains, &c. The Confederate losses in the recent battles with Grant are estimated in the aggregate at twenty thousand men. They assert that Grant has been beaten back in every engagement thus far.

The correspondent of the New York Tribune writing from the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, on the 20th, says:—"A very heavy force is kept doing guard duty from the front to Belle Plain, as our supply trains are constantly menaced by the enemy's cavalry or guerrilla robbers."

Sixty citizens of Fredericksburg have been arrested, and are to be sent to Washington "to be held as hostages for the sixty wounded taken by the rebels and carried to Richmond."

The Baltimore American says if the reported occupation of Bowling Green by the Federal troops is true "our army will have immediately in its rear Port Royal, on the Rappahannock, and as our gunboats now hold that river up to Fredericksburg, from whence our wounded are being removed by transports, we shall thus possess another base of supplies quite as convenient as Fredericksburg." Milford station is fifteen miles from the junction of the Virginia Central and the Fredericksburg Railroads, and is twenty-two miles south of Fredericksburg, and thirty-eight miles by railroad from Richmond. Bowling Green is on the Richmond turnpike, eight miles south of Guinea's station.

Gen. Lee's Congratulatory Order.

The New York Herald publishes from the Richmond Enquirer, the following congratulatory order of Gen. Lee.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 41.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
May 14, 1864.

First—The General Commanding takes great pleasure in announcing to the army the series of successes that by the favor of God, have recently been achieved by our arms.

Second—A part of the enemy's force threatening the valley of Virginia has been routed by General Imboden and driven back to the Potomac, with the loss of their train and a number of prisoners.

Third—Another body of the enemy, under General Averill, penetrated to the Virginia and Tennessee railroad, at Dublin depot. A portion of his force has been dispersed by Generals Morgan and W. E. Jones, who are in pursuit of the remainder.

Fourth—The army of General Banks sustained a severe defeat in Western Louisiana by the forces of General Kirby Smith, and retreated to Alexandria, losing several thousand prisoners, thirty-five pieces of artillery, and a large number of wagons. Some of the most formidable gunboats that accompanied the expedition were destroyed to save them from capture.

Fifth—The expedition of General Steele into Western Arkansas has ended in a complete disaster. Northern journals of the 10th inst. announce his surrender, with an army of nine thousand men, to Gen. Price.

Sixth—The cavalry force sent by General Grant to attack Richmond has been repulsed and retired towards the Peninsula. Every demonstration of the enemy south of James river has, up to this time, been successfully repulsed.

Seventh—The heroic valor of this army, with the blessing of Almighty God, has thus far checked the principal army of the enemy and inflicted upon it heavy losses. The eyes and hearts of your countrymen are turned to you with confidence, and their prayers attend you in your gallant struggle. Encouraged by the success that has been vouchsafed to us, and stimulated by the great interests that depend upon the issue, let every man resolve to endure all and brave all until, by the assistance of a just and merciful God, the enemy shall be driven back, and peace secured to our country. Continue to emulate the valor of your comrades who have fallen, and remember that it depends upon you whether they shall have died in vain. It is in your power, under God, to defeat the last great effort of the enemy, establish the independence of your native land, and earn the lasting love and gratitude of your countrymen and the admiration of mankind. R. E. LEE, General.

The Cincinnati Commercial's "Western correspondent" says that Crook's command is falling back. He is reported to have destroyed a large amount of supplies and damaged the East Tennessee Railroad. The same dispatch reports Gen. Jenkins dead. It will be remembered that the Richmond papers of the 14th deny his capture and say he was not mortally wounded.

Mr. Charles Hyne, a draughtsman, employed on the U. S. coast survey, committed suicide, in Washington, on Saturday afternoon by taking cyanide potassium. He had been in bad health for some time and became depressed.

A deputation of delegates from the General Conference, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of the U. S., in session in Philadelphia, visited President Lincoln on Wednesday, and presented to him an address, in which the Conference express to him the assurance of the "loyalty" of the Church, "her devotion to the interests of the country, and her sympathy with him in the responsibilities of his high position in this trying hour." To this address President Lincoln replied as follows:

"Gentlemen: In response to your address, allow me to attest the accuracy of its historical statements, endorse the sentiments it expresses, and thank you, in the nation's name, for the sure promise it gives. Nobly sustained as the Government has been by all the churches, I would utter nothing which might in the least appear invidious against any. Yet, without this, it may be fairly said that the Methodist Episcopal Church, not less devoted than the rest, is, by its greater numbers, the most important of all. It is no fault in others that the Methodist church sends more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the hospitals, and more prayers to Heaven than any. God bless the Methodist church; bless all the churches; and blessed be God, who, in this, our great trial, giveth us the churches."

The longer of the recent proclamation, purporting to have been issued by President Lincoln, has been arrested, and confesses that he palmed it off for gold and stock speculative purposes. His name is stated to be Howard, a newspaper reporter. Referring to Howard's arrest, the New York Times states: "He says he had no other motive except to make a little money on stock exchange, and it never occurred to him that his performance could produce any more important or serious effect."

The army correspondent of the Washington Chronicle, in giving an account of the late battles in Virginia, writes: "I was informed by a surgeon of the 21 division, 21 corps, that fifteen cases of self-shooting had been examined in his tent after the charge of the 21 corps. Some prefer to shoot one finger off to risking in battle the safety of their whole person."

In the British House of Lords on the 11th Lord Ellenbrough called the attention of the Government to the alleged cases of kidnapping of British subjects in the United States. Earl Russell stated, in reply, that Lord Lyons had made repeated remonstrances to the U. S. Government at Washington, but without any satisfactory results.

Ex-Governor Medary of Ohio, editor of the Columbus Crisis has been arrested "on an indictment for alleged conspiracy with the parties arrested some months ago to overthrow the Government." He has been taken to Cincinnati.

The U. S. steamer Massachusetts, has arrived from the South Atlantic squadron, via Hampton Roads. She left Charleston on the evening of the 17th, and reports no fighting going on at Charleston. The only attack made was by two monitors going up and shelling Fort Sumter.